

**Introduction:** The purpose of this written justification is to announce a revision of the following United States Census Bureau's Quarterly Services Survey (QSS) forms:

- QSS-1(A)                      QSS-1(E)
- QSS-2(A)                      QSS-2(E)
- QSS-3(A)                      QSS-3(E)
- QSS-4(A)                      QSS-4(E)
- QSS-5(A)                      QSS-5(E)
- QSS-1A-PEO                      QSS-1E-PEO

This process will consist of revising the “**Acquisition or Merger**” question of the QSS<sup>1</sup>.

**Summary:** Since year 2003, the QSS has requested all *acquisition or merger* activity for the most recent quarter from respondents. However, based on the design and layout of the current question, responses have been difficult to interpret whether a company is stating they have been “acquired” or have “merged” with another company. Such a discrepancy has provided a lack of efficiency with analytical work of the QSS, primarily in terms of status changes and recent company organizational changes.

**Action:** To alleviate this discrepancy, the Services Indicators Branch will revise question 6 of all QSS survey forms. The revision will request the following:

- an indicator that an acquisition has occurred during the prior quarter
- an indicator that a merger has occurred during the prior quarter
- an indicator that a sale has occurred during the prior quarter

To supplement this information, the respondent will be asked to continue to provide the name and address of the company; the date of the change; and the employee identification number, (EIN) if applicable.

This question will be generic on all QSS survey form images.

**QSS sample/mailout:** The revision will not cause any adjustment to the current sample size.

**Response Burden:** The revision will not affect public reporting burden which is approximately 15 minutes per response.

**Effective:** June 29th, 2007<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The “Acquisition or Merger” question is question 6 located on page 3 of all forms

<sup>2</sup>Mailout date for the 2nd quarter of year 2007.